

Message Text

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21

ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 ORM-01 AID-05 IO-10 HEW-06 /090 W

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R 300735Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7825

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 11247

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, PK, BG, NP

SUBJ: PAKISTAN WILL ACCEPT 2,300 NON-BENGALEES

NOW IN KATHMANDU

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED NOV 29 TOLD PAK SENATE THAT PAKISTAN WILL "GRADUALLY" ACCEPT 2,300 NON-BENGALEES FROM BANGLADESH WHO NOW STRANDED IN NEPAL. AZIZ SPOKE IN RESPONSE TO DEMAND FOR DEBATE ON SUBJECT BY OPPOSITION SENATOR KHAWAJA MOHAMMAD SAFDAR (UDF).

2. GOP HAS TO DATE RECEIVED NO REPLY TO REQUEST TO GOI THAT REFUGEES BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL OVERLAND, AZIZ REPORTEDLY SAID, BUT GOP IS "PRESSING .

3. AZIZ STATED THAT FAMILIES STRANDED IN NEPAL NOT REALLY ENTITLED TO REPATRIATION AS THEY DO NOT FALL INTO ANY OF FOUR CATEGORIES UNDER TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BUT GOP HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THEM ANYWAY. HE CAUTIONED
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THAT REPATRIATION WOULD HAVE TO BE REGULATED BY PAK

ABILITY TO ABSORB REFUGEES.

4. PAKISTAN INITIALLY ASKED UNITED NATIONS TO ARRANGE AIRLIFT TO PAKISTAN FROM NEPAL OF 1,000 PERSONS, PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE. HOWEVER, PLEADING LACK OF FUNDS, UN ADVISED GOP TO APPROACH DONOR COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY FOR ASSISTANCE, WHICH ACCORDING TO AZIZ, HAS BEEN DONE.

5. AZIZ HELD OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT MORE REFUGEES MAY BE ACCEPTED. IN ADDITION TO 150,000 PERSONS AGREED TO UNDER TRIPATITE ACCORD, PAKS HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED 25,000 PERSONS IN HARDSHIP CATEGORIES AND ACCORDING ONE PRESS ACCOUNT AZIZ NOTED THAT "MORE OF THESE CASES COULD BE DISCUSSED WHEN PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN MEET". HOWEVER, TO EMPHASIZE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN SITUATION, AZIZ SAID THAT THERE STILL REMAIN NEARLY 35,000 PERSONS IN PAK CAMPS WHO AWAIT RESETTLEMENT.

6. COMMENT: WE INTEND TO SEEK A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE AS TO WHERE REPATRIATIONS STAND NEXT WEEK WHEN MFA OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MATTER RETURN FROM TRADE TALKS IN NEW DELHI.
BYROADE

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